

Tulsa County
Conservation District

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Tulsa County Conservation District

Annual Report July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

The Tulsa County Conservation District is a local subdivision of state government. The district formed April 12, 1938 to ensure local people are involved in conservation activities.

The main goal of the district is to provide services to land users in protecting and conserving natural resources and to provide a link to state and federal conservation agencies and programs.

A board of five conservation district directors (three elected and two appointed) governs the conservation district.

Our district has cooperators agreements with over 1175 producers in the county. These agreements cover more than 245,000 acres.

The board of directors submits this annual report to inform the public of this past year's conservation accomplishments.

We invite all citizens to become familiar with the activities of the Tulsa County Conservation District and to visit our office and get acquainted with our staff.

We also invite people to attend our monthly board meeting held on the second Thursday of each month at 4:00PM unless otherwise stated.

Our Mission: To provide leadership through community partnerships to help people conserve, protect, restore, and enhance Tulsa County's natural resources and environment for its residents and visitors.

Our Charge: Conservation districts are the only local unit of government charged with the responsibility of conserving our natural resources.

Our Purpose: To conserve, protect, restore, and improve Tulsa County's natural resources for the citizens of Tulsa County

Tulsa County Conservation District Board of Directors

- Tom Tolbert – Chairman
- Jana Black – Vice-Chair
- Jana Black – Treasurer
- Sherry Laskey – Member
- Michael Patton – Member

The Conservation District shares office space with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), a federal agency in the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The NRCS provides technical and planning assistance to the conservation district and district cooperators, while also administering several USDA technical and cost share programs.

Due to Covid-19 our office is not open to the public, but other office hours are Monday- Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



Oklahoma Conservation Cost Share Program

The conservation district administers the Oklahoma Conservation Cost Share Program for Tulsa County. This past year the district received \$20,000 for CSPY. The Board approved a total of six applications for the cost share program years 22 and 23. TCCD also completed CSPY 20, with one project completed, and 72% of \$10,000 allocated. The remaining funds did not roll over to CSPY 22.

The Oklahoma Legislature established the program in 1998. It is an annual program requiring funding from the legislature. The conservation district board obtains input from citizens to determine which conservation practices will be included in the program each year. In CSPY 22 and 23, the District approved all possible conservation practices included, but not limited to: Brush management, herbaceous weed control, critical area planting, diversions, ponds, fencing, grade stabilization structures, grassed waterways, heavy use area protection, pasture and hay planting, pipeline, pumping plant, range planting, nutrient management, pest management, terrace, watering facility, and water wells.

Emergency Watershed Program

Through the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program, NRCS is not currently involved in any projects in Tulsa County.

Providing Education Materials and Services to Producers in the District

The Tulsa County Conservation District currently does not have any equipment available to producers in Tulsa County. However, producers do have the ability to rent equipment from surrounding counties. Our district focuses on outreach education, while also working alongside NRCS to provide financial and technical assistance to local landowners through the State Cost Share Program. We do have some classroom materials that are available to check out with a deposit. Supplies include books, soil discovery kits, hand lenses, tree books, sample dishes, bug boxes, rocks, macroinvertebrate samples and others.



Pond construction has been one of the conservation practices included in the Conservation Cost Share Program.



Workers collect debris at a previous NRCS' EWP site in another part of the region. NRCS did not have any EWP's in Tulsa County



Livestock watering facility built with Conservation Cost Share Program.

Outreach and Education

The district carries out a variety of conservation education activities during the year. Between July 2020 and June 2021, the district was only able to hold or participate in conservation education activities a few times due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. These included:

- ❖ Assist with planting a pollinator garden at Monarch’s on the Mountain limited participation event
- ❖ Set up a table at an Arkansas River Cleanup at the Yard Bar for Earth Day
- ❖ Set up a table at the Broken Arrow Farmer’s Market for the Yard by Yard Project
- ❖ Set up a table for the Yard by Yard Project at the M.e.t’s Enviro Expo
- ❖ Set up a Yard by Yard Project table at a Tulsa Driller’s baseball game
- ❖ Coordinate Cost Share Programs Year 21, 22 and 23.
- ❖ 50 hours of volunteer hours were contributed by the Tulsa County Earth Team, with about 18 individuals volunteering during the fiscal year.

0	preschool
0	kindergarten
0	1st Grade
0	2nd Grade
0	3rd Grade
0	4th Grade
0	5th Grade
0	6th Grade
0	7th Grade
0	8th Grade
2	9th Grade
2	10th Grade
3	11th Grade
2	12th Grade
0	College
2	Teachers
7	Adults
0	Higher Ed Instructor
18	Grand Total



Tulsa County Conservation District assists River Parks and Monarch’s on the Mountain plant a pollinator garden next to our Yard by Yard sign.



Arkansas River Cleanup at the Yard Bar April 2021



Tulsa County Conservation District at the M.e.t’s Enviro Expo in May 2021. Such a beautiful day to celebrate Earth Day, albeit a month late.

Tulsa County Conservation District Outreach Events Continued:

- Tulsa Home & Garden Show – Did not Participate
- Tulsa Farm Show - Did not participate
- Monarch's on the Mountain - limited
- Crow Creek Community
- Soil, Water and Ways Workshop
- Blue Thumb Volunteer
- Blue Thumb Stream Macroinvertebrate Collections
- Yard by Yard Community Resiliency Project
- Broken Arrow Farmer's Market
- OneOK Field – Tulsa Driller's Baseball Game
 - City of Broken Arrow
 - City of Tulsa
 - Crow Creek Community
 - Metropolitan Environmental Trust
 - Monarch Initiative of Tulsa
 - Natural Resources Conservation Service
 - Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts
 - Oklahoma Blue Thumb
 - Oklahoma Conservation Commission
 - Oxley Nature Center
 - River Parks Authority
 - Sustainable Tulsa
 - Tulsa Audubon Society
 - Tulsa Urban Wilderness Coalition
 - Tulsa Young Professionals
 - Tulsa Zoo
 - Up With Trees
 - Wild Birds Unlimited
 - A New Leaf
 - Grogg's Green Barn



Tulsa County Conservation District and the City of Tulsa Recycling and Refuse at the Tulsa Driller's Game May 2021



Monarch's on the Mountain Migration Sign at Turkey Mountain September 2020

Tulsa County Conservation District Yard by Yard Community Resiliency Project

On August 1, 2020 the Tulsa County Conservation District launched the Yard by Yard Community Resiliency Project in Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts.

The goal of the Yard by Yard Project is to highlight the excellent work that urban residents are already doing. We all want to encourage others to try out projects that help build resiliency within our community.

Since August 2020, the district has certified about fourteen yards with a few yards pending. We have certified several in the City of Tulsa, one in Sperry and two in Broken Arrow.

With the efforts of the District, Cheryl Cheadle with Oklahoma Blue Thumb, and the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts, we will be able improve many communities across Oklahoma. One yard at a time.



Tom Clark and dogter Marley July 2021



**Tulsa County's 1st Certified Yard - Barbara Vanhanken
August 2020**



**Ali from the M.e.t and her Daughter
May 2021**



Mark Miller and his Wife July 2021

USDA Conservation Programs

The Conservation District works closely with the NRCS in carrying out conservation work in the county. The NRCS staff provides technical assistance to the Conservation District and to county land users. The NRCS also administers several federal cost share programs.

Listed below are accomplishments through federal conservation programs in 2020 - 2021:

- ❖ 1 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) contract was developed
- ❖ \$8,100 on 35.6 acres
- ❖ 1 Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
- ❖ \$7416 on 48 acres
- ❖ 9 Conservation Stewardship Program Grassland Conservation Initiative (CSP-GCI)
- ❖ \$37,944 on 385.8 acres

Additional NRCS efforts included:

- ❖ Utilizing Earth Team Volunteers for 50 hours of support for Outreach and Education efforts in Tulsa County and across Oklahoma.

NRCS regularly provides planning and technical support for land users to plant Bermuda sprigs, soil erosion, cover crop planting, soil and water erosion and livestock watering facilities through OCC's State Cost Share Program during each year.

NRCS also provides technical assistance for local authorities' and municipalities and other agencies and local municipalities.